

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04
NSC-05 SS-15 /077 W
-----181759Z 125495 /47

P R 181634Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0050
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ATHENS 3479

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS RESPONDS TO FOREIGN MINISTER
CAGLAYANGIL

1. THE AFTERNOON RADIO NEWS APRIL 18 CARRIED A SHARP
STATEMENT BY GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS RESPONDING TO AN
INTERVIEW BY HIS TURKISH COLLEAGUE WHICH REPORTEDLY APPEARED
IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE TURKISH NEWSPAPER MILLIYET.
ACCORDING TO ATHENS NEWSPAPER REPORTS THIS AFTERNOON,
WHICH REFERRED TO EXTRACTS FROM THE MILLIYET INTERVIEW,
CAGLAYANGIL CLAIMED THAT IT WAS GREECE, NOT TURKEY, THAT WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR "TORPEDOING" THE VIENNA INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS
AND FOR THE FAILURE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
THESE REPORTS SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL REASONED THAT GREECE WAS
PURPOSELY SEEKING TO DELAY A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN
THE US MILITARY ARMS EMBARGO, MAKE TURKEY A "DEFENDANT" BEFORE
WORLD OPINION, AND WEAKEN TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST

2. IN HIS REPLY, BITSIOS UNDERLINED THAT CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT
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WAS AT ODDS WITH THE TURK'S ASSERTION OF HIS PREPAREDNESS TO
NEGOTIATE "WITH GOODWILL," ESPECIALLY COMING AS IT DOES A
FEW DAYS BEFORE THEIR MEETING IN STRASBOURG AT THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE SESSION. A PROPER CLIMATE IS REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL
NEGOTIATIONS, BITSIOS ASSERTED, A FACT ACKNOWLEDGED BY TURKEY
THROUGH THE BERN AGREEMENT BUT CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT AND TURKEY'S
RECENT ACTIONS ARE IN "VIVID CONTRAST" TO A PROPER SPIRIT, HE

NOTED. THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT WAS WELL KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY THAT THE TURKISH SIDE HAD BACKED DOWN FROM THE (MAKARIOS-DENKTASH) AGREEMENT AT NICOSIA CONCERNING THE VIENNA TALKS, ADDING THAT TURKEY SHOULD NOT BLAME GREECE FOR THE FORMER'S PROBLEMS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. BITSIOS CONCLUDED THAT CAGLYANGIL SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED WHAT TURKEY'S "ALLIED" BEHAVIOR HAD BEEN TOWARDS GREECE BEFORE ATTACKING THE GREEK POSITION ON NATO. (NOTE: CAGLAYANGIL'S COMMENTS ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE GREEK PRESS).
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS03479
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0301
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770448/aaaabpts.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fcdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2780797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS RESPONDS TO FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS), (CAGLAYANGIL, IHSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fcdcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009